REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the present application is respectfully requested.

Resubmission of Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action notes the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 18, 2000 failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2).

Applicant respectfully submits herewith under separate cover a Resubmission of Information Disclosure Statement citing those documents that were cited in the February 18, 2000 Information Disclosure Statement yet not considered by the Examiner. A legible copy of each cited document is enclosed with the Resubmission of Information Disclosure Statement.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(f), Applicant respectfully submits Applicant made a bona fide attempt to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 in submitting the February 18, 2000 Information Disclosure Statement and respectfully submits with the Resubmission of Information Disclosure Statement a copy of the return postcard showing a copy of each cited document was submitted with the February 18, 2000 Information Disclosure Statement and received by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Applicant therefore respectfully submits payment of the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is not required.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In the Office Action, claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,706,416 to Mann et al. ("Mann").

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as follows.

Applicant respectfully submits <u>Mann</u> did not teach or suggest dividing each of at least

two digital images into a plurality of areas and identifying where overlapping ones of the areas

overlap, as claimed in independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 25.

Noting claims 2-8, 10-16, 18-24, and 26-27 depend from claim 1, 9, 17, or 25, Applicant

therefore respectfully submits this rejection has been overcome and should accordingly be

withdrawn.

<u>New Claims</u>

Because new claims 28-31 depend from claim 1, 9, 17, or 25, Applicant respectfully

submits new claims 28-31 are patentable over <u>Mann</u>.

MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

1.   (Once Amended) A method comprising:

identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;

[obtaining overlapping areas of the at least two digital images at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level;]

<u>dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level;</u> and

identifying where [the] overlapping <u>ones of the</u> areas [overlap] at the second resolution level <u>overlap</u>.

2.   (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the at least two digital images are stored at the first and second resolution levels [; and wherein the obtaining comprises retrieving the overlapping areas from the at least two digital images at the second resolution level].

3.   (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method comprises:

storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in memory to identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level; [and]

purging the memory of the at least two digital images <u>at the first resolution level</u> [prior to obtaining the overlapping areas]; <u>and</u>

[wherein the obtaining comprises]

storing the overlapping areas <u>at the second resolution level</u> in the memory <u>to identify</u> <u>where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap.</u>

4.   (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level and the identifying where [the] overlapping <u>ones of the</u> areas [overlap] at the second resolution level <u>overlap</u> each comprise using an edge detection technique.

5.   (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level comprises identifying coordinates where the at least two digital images at the first resolution level overlap; and

wherein the [obtaining] <u>identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second</u> <u>resolution level overlap</u> comprises identifying the overlapping areas based on the identified coordinates.

8.   (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, comprising:

identifying where another set of at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

[obtaining overlapping areas of the other set of at least two digital images at the second resolution level;]

<u>dividing each image of the other set of at least two digital images into a plurality of areas</u> <u>at the second resolution level;</u>

identifying where [the] overlapping <u>ones of the</u> areas of the other set of at least two digital images [overlap] at the second resolution level <u>overlap</u>; and

combining the digital images.

9.   (Once Amended) A computer readable medium having [computer executable] instructions [for] <u>that, when executed by a computer, perform a method comprising</u>:

identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;

[obtaining overlapping areas of the at least two digital images at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level;]

<u>dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level;</u> and

identifying where [the] overlapping <u>ones of the</u> areas [overlap] at the second resolution level <u>overlap</u>.

10.   (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein each of the at least two digital images are stored at the first and second resolution levels [; and wherein the obtaining comprises retrieving the overlapping areas from the at least two digital images at the second resolution level].

11.   (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, [having computer executable instructions for] <u>wherein the method comprises</u>:

storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in memory to identify

where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level; [and]

purging the memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level [prior to

obtaining the overlapping areas]; and

[wherein the obtaining comprises]

storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to identify

where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap.

12.   (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the identifying

where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level and the identifying where

[the] overlapping ones of the areas [overlap] at the second resolution level overlap each comprise

using an edge detection technique.

13.   (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the identifying

where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level comprises identifying

coordinates where the at least two digital images at the first resolution level overlap; and

wherein the [obtaining] identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second

resolution level overlap comprises identifying the overlapping areas based on the identified

coordinates.

14. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, [having computer executable instructions for] wherein the method comprises combining the at least two digital images.

15. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, [having computer executable instructions for] wherein the method comprises identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at one or more resolution levels higher than the second resolution level.

16. (Once Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 9, [having computer executable instructions for] wherein the method comprises:

identifying where another set of at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level;

[obtaining overlapping areas of the other set of at least two digital images at the second resolution level;]

dividing each image of the other set of at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at the second resolution level;

identifying where [the] overlapping ones of the areas of the other set of at least two digital images [overlap] at the second resolution level overlap; and

combining the digital images.

17. (Once Amended) A computer system comprising:

(a) one or more processors; and

(b)   a computer readable medium to store instructions [which] that, when executed by the one or more processors, perform:

(i)   identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level,

[(ii)   obtaining overlapping areas of the at least two digital images at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level,]

(ii)   dividing each of the at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level, and

(iii)   identifying where [the] overlapping ones of the areas [overlap] at the second resolution level overlap.

18.   (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 17, comprising a computer readable medium to store each of the at least two digital images at the first and second resolution levels [; and wherein the obtaining comprises retrieving the overlapping areas from the at least two digital images at the second resolution level].

19.   (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 17, comprising memory, [wherein] the computer readable medium [stores] to store instructions [for] that, when executed by the one or more processors, perform:

storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in the memory to identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level, [; and]

purging the memory of the at least two digital images <u>at the first resolution level</u> [prior to

obtaining the overlapping areas;]<u>, and</u>

[wherein the obtaining comprises]

storing the overlapping areas <u>at the second resolution level</u> in the memory <u>to identify</u>

<u>where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap</u>.

20. (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 17, wherein the identifying where the at

least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level and the identifying where [the]

overlapping <u>ones of the</u> areas [overlap] at the second resolution level <u>overlap</u> each comprise

using an edge detection technique.

21. (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 17, wherein the identifying where the at

least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level comprises identifying coordinates

where the at least two digital images at the first resolution level overlap; and

wherein the [obtaining] <u>identifying where overlapping ones of the areas at the second</u>

<u>resolution level overlap</u> comprises identifying the overlapping areas based on the identified

coordinates.

22. (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 17, [wherein] the computer readable

medium [stores] <u>to store</u> instructions [for] <u>that, when executed by the one or more processors,</u>

<u>perform</u> combining the at least two digital images.

23.   (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 17, [wherein] the computer readable medium [stores] to store instructions [for] that, when executed by the one or more processors, perform identifying where the at least two digital images overlap at one or more resolution levels higher than the second resolution level.

24.   (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 17, [wherein] the computer readable medium [stores] to store instructions [for] that, when executed by the one or more processors, perform:

identifying where another set of at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level, [;]

[obtaining overlapping areas of the other set of at least two digital images at the second resolution level;]

dividing each image of the other set of at least two digital images into a plurality of areas at the second resolution level,

identifying where [the] overlapping ones of the areas of the other set of at least two digital images [overlap] at the second resolution level overlap, [;] and

combining the digital images.

25.   (Once Amended) A computer system comprising:

means for identifying where at least two digital images overlap at a first resolution level;

means for [obtaining overlapping areas of the at least two digital images at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level] dividing each of the at least two digital

images into a plurality of areas at a second resolution level higher than the first resolution level; and

means for identifying where [the] overlapping ones of the areas [overlap] at the second resolution level overlap.

26.   (Once Amended) The computer system of claim 25, comprising:

means for storing the at least two digital images at the first resolution level in memory to identify where the at least two digital images overlap at the first resolution level; [and]

means for purging the memory of the at least two digital images at the first resolution level [prior to obtaining the overlapping areas]; and

[wherein the obtaining means comprises]

means for storing the overlapping areas at the second resolution level in the memory to identify where the overlapping areas at the second resolution level overlap.
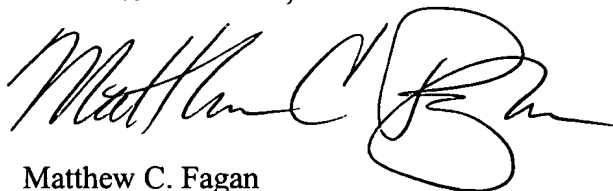
Claims 28-31 have been added.

Applicant respectfully submits the present application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to help expedite any further prosecution of the present application.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any fees or fee deficiencies under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR
& ZAFMAN, L.L.P.

Date: August 15, 2001

Matthew C. Fagan
Registration No. 37,542

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1030

Telephone: (512) 330-0844
Facsimile: (512) 330-0476